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A NARRATIVE OF THE SESSIONS:

OR,

An Account of the Notorious

HIGH-WAY-MEN AND OTHERS;

Lately Tryed and Condemned

At the Old-Bayly.

With all their Particular Crimes, manner of Takeing, and Behaviour since, to the time of their Execution.

With Allowance.

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A NARRATIVE OF THE SESSIONS:

OR,

An Account of the Notorious High-Way-Men, and Others, lately Tryed and Condemned at the *Old-Bayly*.

Rewards and Punishments are the two Poles, which since our First Parents Deplorable Fall can alone sustayn this sin-polluted World, so far are we from being enamoured with Vertues Native Beauty, or discerning that Horrid Deformity that is in Vice, to flye the one, and embrace the other; That all the severities of the Majestrate, and Rigour of Laws cannot Bridle in our Extravagant Spirits from Enormous Actions.

OF this Unhappy Truth every day gives too many Instances, and in particular the Transactions of the late Sessions, for *London* and *Middlesex*, held the 5, 6, 9, & 10, days of this Instant *September*, where besides the smaller Rogueries that deserved the Brand,

&c. No leſs then Seventeen perſons had juſtly the Sentence of death paſt upon them for their Crimes.

Murder, no doubt ought to be rankt firſt in the devils Heraldry, and therefore we ſhall begin with one who paſſing over *London-Bridge* with a Woman ('tis ſaid wife) and ſhe going to buy a penny-worth of Apples, or other fruit, & offering the poor woman money which ſhe ſuſpected not to be good, the Apple-woman ſhews it to a man that ſtood by, who by his boiſterous handling it, accidentially broke it, whereupon the Souldiers woman complained to him, who all this while ſtood over the way, but no ſooner had ſhe told him the diſaſter but all in fury he comes over, and without many words draws his ſword, and ſheaths it in the Body of the aforeſaid man, that moſt unluckily to the loſs of his life had been made Judge of the Groats goodneſs, who dying on the place, the Criminal was immediately apprehended, and ſent (after Examination by a Juſtice) to *Newgate*, &c.

The next is one, whoſe Tragedy is briefly thus, Having been walking abroad in the Fields on the Lords day, (a good warning to all to have a care of Profaning, or triffling away a Sabbath, as if inſtead of Gods ſerve, it were only ſet apart for our diverſion) ſome quarrel chanced to arife, and he after the good old Engliſh way Boxed it out ſtoutly for a conſiderable time, till an unlucky *Frenchman* that had Engaged himſelf in the fray (which had ſoon cauſed a great Tumult) ſpoke to him and askt why he would ſuffer himſelf to be thus abuſed, having a ſword by his ſide, and make no uſe of it. At theſe words all on a ſudden he draws, and in a mad fury reſolves to quench his rage in the next Mans Blood his Arm could meet with, which unhappily fell out to be an honeſt Shoo-maker, that was ſtanding innocently enough gazing amongſt the croud, This poor man no ſooner ſaw the naked Steel Levelled at his heart, but inſtantly he crys out, proteſts himſelf uncon-

concerned, and flies back, but in vain, for the other with his fatal Rapier soon cut the thread of his Life, and for it (whilst the crafty Monsieur that occasioned all the mischief nimbly tripps off) is committed to that dolefull place of Confinement *Newgate*, where at the Sessions he received sentence of death. It being agreeable to all Laws Divine and Humane, that he that wilfully sheds anothers blood should expiate it with the loss of his own.

The next are five Gallants of the High-pad, had long time been sequestrators of the Road, and forced every Travelling Purse they met to pay Contribution. Most Counties had tasted of their Courage, for they often made Sallies into parts remote, but still *London* was their head Quarters, whers at an Inn where their Horses used to stand, they were apprehended severally, Committed, and at their Tryal notwithstanding all the shifting Envasions they could Invent, very deservedly sentenced to be Transported into another World, since they so much had disturbed the Tranquillity and safety of this.

And then came two persons of great Dexterity, and celebrated for their skill, but intending at once to make themselves for ever with a considerable Booty, they attempted a dismal tempestuous and stormy night, to pillage the House of a worthy Gentleman of this City, but it seems making too much noise, they were heard, and the Alarm given to the Servants: some inconsiderable things they had already thrown out at the wind, but being so discovered, one was taken in the House, the other got home, and was seized in his own Lodging.

Some others there were also for the like offence, which the Law calls Burglary, or house-breaking, and most prudently punishes with death, since every mans house ought to be his

Castle,

Castle, and greatest place of security, nor could any one sleep in peace, were there not some extraordinary restraints put upon their desires, who live in the world like perfect beasts of Prey, and to gratifie their Lusts and Debaucheries are ready to devour (if it lay in their power) all their fellow-Creatures.

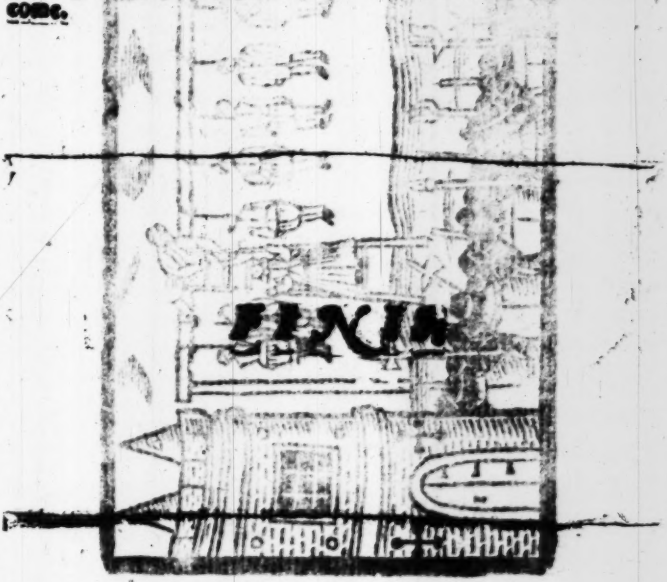
Another, not the least amongst this unhappy Crew, together with his companion, swore their thoughts to the highest pitch, they scorn petty Larcenies, to lay wait in Ale-houses, for straying Tankards; or stand shivering at the corner of a street in a dark night, in ambuscade, to surprise Hats or Cloaks, but attempting a nobler piece of Art, they fail, are taken, and Condemned to suffer according to their desserits.

But these are common Crimes, there is something yet more vile and unnatural: To injure others is an effect of our depraved Nature; but to offer violence where Nature her self obliges us to Love, is such a strange Barbarity, that makes me mingle my tears with my ink to relate it. The Holy Scripture is so far from supposing any person so desperately wicked, that it asks the Question, (and such Interrogations are the most vehement Negatives) *Can a woman forget her Child?* To expose a tender infant to the mercy of a mercilesse world; and by a Negative Cruelty, deny it that sustenance that Nature it self furnishes us with to bestow, is very strange, but to lay violent hands on our own Off-spring, and cause the death of a helpless Innocent that from us derived its life cannot but be monstrous and abominable.

Of these She-Nero's this Sessions found two, and justly Sentenced them with death, it being fit they should go out of the world with Infamy, who themselves cut off their own posterity.

On

On *Wednesday* the 10*th.* of this instant *September*, the Honourable Court pronounced the dreadful Sentence; which the prisoners seem'd to receive with much Awe and Contrition: and we hope that by the blessing of Heaven on the Labours of several of its Ambassadors, whose Charity hath led them to visit these forlorn, and deplorable Convicts, they may be brought to a sence of the vileness of their Nature, the horridness of their Crimes, the necessity of a Saviour, the infinite merits of a Crucified Jesus; and so though by an Immature and Ignominious death, they satisfie Justice in this world, they may through mercy enjoy eternal Life in that which is to come.



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